the end of the 8th Five Year Plan 198 major irrigation/multipurpose projects have been completed and 171 major projects are under construction. Most of these projects have canal systems more than 100 km in length.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the primary responsibility for maintenance of canal rests with the State Governments. Grants for maintenance of canals including desilting is provided accordingly by the State Government.

(c) The National Transport Policy Committee Report (1980) has idenfitied 485 kms of canals as navigable by mechanized craft. The Inland Waterways Authority of India has conducted techno economic feasibility studies for the 136 km length of Damodar Valley Canals.

(d) Use of canals for water transportation depends on several technical factors and availability of resources.

Clearance of Ichampalli Project

1085. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government approached for early clearance of the Ichampalli Project; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKARAVARTY): (a) The detailed project report with updated cost and concurrence of Government of Maharashtra and Government of Chhattisgarh for submergence has not yet been submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) To resolve the inter-State issues involved in the Inchampalli Multipurpose Project viz. submergence of land and displacement of population, the Central Water Commission constituted on 6th July 2000, a High Level Committee under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P) Central Water Commission with representatives from Government of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The report, submitted by the Committee to the Ministry of Water Resources on 26.06.2001, has been forwarded to the 3 State Governments for their comments.